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POD Network News: Newsletter Spring 1987

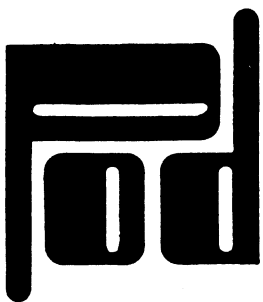
Marilla D. Svinicki

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NETWORK

PROFESSIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Spring 1987

NEWSLETTER

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Marilla Svinicki, and I have the honor of serving you as Executive Director for the next year. It won't be easy living up to the standards set by Bette Erickson during the past two years, but with your help and a lot of hard work, I hope to keep the organization running as smoothly as she did. What this means for you is that future correspondence about POD matters should be addressed to me at:

Marilla D. Svinicki
Ctr. for Teaching Effectiveness
Main 2200
The University of Texas at Austin
Austin, Texas 78712-1111

OUR THANKS TO BETTE LASERE ERICKSON

As my first official act, I want to acknowledge publicly the tremendous job Bette Erickson has done for POD during her tenure as Executive Director. We can never thank Bette adequately for all she has done, but I hope that you'll let her know how much we appreciate her efforts the next time you see her. (I'd say write her a note, but she keeps telling me how relieved she is that the volume of her mail has gone down in the last month. Perhaps she wouldn't mind that kind of mail, however.) On your behalf, the Core Committee thanked Bette at the March meeting in Chicago with kinds words, applause, a plaque for her office and a hand-woven silk shawl. However, I know that for Bette the esteem of her colleagues is what matters most.

AND SPEAKING OF THE CHICAGO CORE MEETING

As is our habit, the Core Committee met just prior to the AAHE convention in Chicago on Feb. 28 and March 1. We welcomed the new members you elected and spent many fruitful hours discussing the business of the organization.

During the meeting we discussed possible locations for the 1988 conference and beyond. It had been our hope to meet again at Asilomar since so many members enjoyed that site, but the very things which we enjoy about it make it so popular that we have been unable to book the conference there in the near future. Therefore we are currently looking for a west coast site and an east coast site. One will be booked for 1988 and the other for 1989. The order will depend on what is available. I'd like to urge all POD members to **be on the lookout for conference sites** which would meet our needs in future years. If you know of one in your area or if you attend a conference at a reasonable site, please let me know about it so we can consider it.

The Core Committee also heard from Joanne Kurfiss about the progress of this year's volume of To Improve the Academy. Joanne reports that things are going well, and we can again look forward to an informative volume. The Committee also considered a proposal from the publisher of the series to market future volumes in such a way as to make the book pay for itself, thus freeing those funds to support other organization activities. We will be attempting this on a pilot basis this year to see if there is sufficient demand outside the organization to make it feasible.

We also considered the proposals which were submitted for the pilot program on project funding. Once all the details have been worked out by the Proposal Committee, the recipients of the awards will be announced, but the Core Committee was pleased to try out this new program and will definitely be continuing it for another year. The guidelines for next year's program are being revised and will be available at the October conference, so be on the alert for this opportunity to try out some new ideas.

Of special interest was a discussion about the need to do more to keep all members of the organization informed about the past, present and future of POD and to involve more of the membership in the various programs of the organization. To address the first issue a subcommittee of the Core has undertaken a project to produce a members' information booklet to help old and new members alike understand the common culture of the organization, how we do things and why. Since one of the members of that committee, Peter Frederick, is a bonified historian, another, Marilyn Leach, a bonified pack rat, and Bette and I are old members of the organization, we hope to be able to put in written form some of the traditions and culture which make POD so unique. If you have ideas, suggestions or information which would help us in this endeavor, we'd like to hear from you. At the same time another group will be working on procedures to make selection of some of the key people in the organization a more participative process. We have been accustomed to working on a volunteer basis in the past, but the organization is becoming more and more complex as we add new projects and services. To meet the needs of that complexity, the Core Committee felt that we should examine some of our operating procedures to see if a more effective way can be found to do some of the tasks we have relied on volunteers for in the past. There will be much more on that in future newsletters, I'm sure.

If you would like to know more about any of these topics, or have information or ideas to offer about them or if you have some suggestions about future agenda items, please call me or any of the Core Committee members. We would like to hear from you.

AAHE SESSION AND RECEPTION

Another POD activity at the AAHE convention was a session devoted to demonstrating to those not familiar with the organization the kinds of things that people in POD do. About a dozen of our members volunteered their time to present a mini-POD convention in the midst of the AAHE conference. After an introduction by Bette, the group broke up into small circles, each led by a POD member and concentrating on a special topic, such as consultation or graduate teaching assistants or administrator concerns in development. After 30 minutes the groups changed, allowing participants to sample three different topics during the course of the session. Presenters were encouraged to be active and participatory in their design, just as we

are at our own conference. The session was a huge success, and the presenters are owed a great THANK YOU from all of us for giving their time to organize such a good session for our guests. Those presenters were Bette Erickson, Jack Lindquist, Jack Noonan, Lynn Mortensen, Wini Anderson, Dan Wheeler, Bob Diamond, Peter Frederick, Sher Hruska, Joanne Kurfiss, Wally Sikes (who due to an illness in the family was unable to actually attend) and me. Special thanks are due to Joanne and Bette who organized the session and arranged for all those people to participate. I had the easy part; I picked the food and paid the check (come to think of it, that last was the hard part!). Although we couldn't keep an accurate count, we estimate that well over 75 people were in and out of the session during the period.

The session was then followed by a reception open to any AAHE attendee. This was also a huge success and very well attended. Again I can't say exactly how many people came, but it was more than 100 (I counted the wine bottles), and several people have since contacted Bette or me to get more information about the organization. I believe we can say that we made a good impression on those who came. I felt this was especially important given the apparent lack of familiarity with development activities which seemed prevalent at the conference. Perhaps we each need to be more active in making others aware of what faculty and instructional development is and can do.

1987 CONFERENCE NEWS

The 1987 conference announcement and registration form is enclosed so you can get a fast start on planning. The conference will be held in Kerrville, Texas, just outside of San Antonio on the banks of the Guadalupe River. The theme of the conference is Fostering Innovations in the Classroom which will give us all a chance to hear about new classroom ideas and how to encourage them. If you are a faculty member, please come and tell us about what you do in class; if you are a developer, bring a faculty member along and together tell us how developers can be most helpful to faculty; if you are an administrator, help us grapple with the institutional constraints which often discourage innovation. During the conference we will all be challenged to consider new ideas and be a little more creative.

The Inn of the Hills is a fairly laid back atmosphere, not quite as uptown as Hidden Valley, but definitely Texan. Karron Lewis encourages everyone to dress casually and enjoy what will probably be our warmest conference site in many years (temperatures will probably be in the 70-80 range). In addition to our usual round of excellent sessions, we'll learn to Texas two-step and clog, have a Tex-Mex fiesta and a tournament night of bowling (when was the last time you tried that!), tennis or trivial pursuit plus other surprises. Y'all come on down.

Handbook for New Practitioners Survey

As you know, Rusty Wadsworth has undertaken a project to produce a handbook for new practitioners of faculty and instructional development. This will be a valuable contribution to the literature and to new members of POD so we want to give her as much support and cooperation as we can. Soon you should be getting her survey which will allow you to determine what should be included in the Handbook for New Practitioners. It is also your opportunity to identify yourself as a potential contributor or interviewer. One of the very real benefits of POD membership is opportunities such as this to publish in your field.

Rusty has included a special incentive to encourage you to complete the survey on time. If you return it and the "Lottery Ticket" tear-off by the deadline, your name will be included in a drawing for a \$30.00 gift certificate for a book. Does she know about motivation or what?

MORE PUBLISHING OPPORTUNITIES

I'm pleased to announce that one of our members, James Eison of Southeast Missouri State, has become the new Editor of the Journal of Staff, Program and Organization Development. This is one of the few journals which has been directed almost exclusively at our field and has the potential of being an important resource for our members. Jim is interested in enhancing the quality of the journal as well as meeting the needs of developers, and therefore encourages POD members to consider submitting present and future manuscripts to JSPOD. In a Core Committee meeting last year, we discussed possible ties with the journal and felt we should make its existence known to our members and encourage them to support it. For more information contact Jim at Southeast Missouri State.

Another journal which might be of interest to you is the Journal of the Higher Education Research and Development Society of Australasia. The Society represents persons working in the field of educational consultancy, research and professional development. If you are interested in more information about this journal, you can contact me or Dr. Ingrid Moses of the University of Queensland, St. Lucia, Australia.

LETTERS, WE GET LETTERS

Bette was right when she said that POD gets lots of mail (some of it very strange). But some of the more interesting pieces concern upcoming conferences and available materials which might be of interest to the members. So here is a summary of what I have so far.

CONFERENCES

Seventh Annual Conference on Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, June 21-24, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. "The conference provides faculty, educational researchers, administrators and instructional developers with a forum in which to discuss ways to improve teaching and learning in post secondary education." (from the brochure)

Improving University Teaching, June 29-July 2, University of Haifa and University of Maryland, Haifa, Israel. The conference will focus "on ways of achieving (a) global perspective in our colleges and universities."

Meeting the Challenge of the 90's, July 6-11, Newcastle upon Tyne Polytechnic, University of Florida, University of Kassel, Newcastle upon Tyne, England. The seminar will focus on developments involving new kinds of students and forms of access and on developments in appraisal and accountability.

Exploring Teaching Alternatives, Oct. 8-10, International Society for Exploring Teaching Alternatives, Ft. Collins, CO. The Society is calling for papers, workshops or poster sessions focusing on "assessment and accountability, teaching strategies, thinking skills, motivation and other instructional methods that enhance active student participation and learning." For more information contact Ken Klopfenstein, Mathematics, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523.

Sixth Annual Intellectual Skills Development Conference, Nov. 6-7, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI. "Presentations on the application of cognitive and developmental theories to classroom practice, strategies to improve student learning, and assessment of thinking." (from the announcement)

AND MATERIALS

National Center for Research to Improve Postsecondary Teaching and Learning, the University of Michigan, is putting out a whole series of interesting papers on various concerns of higher education. You might want to contact them for a list of the ones currently available. Contact Joan Stark at the University of Michigan Center.

Intellectual Skills Development Association, Western Michigan University, has some interesting materials in the area of the application of cognitive and developmental theories to classroom practice. Contact Lynne McCauley at Western Michigan.

American Psychologist, Vol. 41, No. 10 (October, 1986), has an entire volume devoted to articles summarizing psychology's potential contributions to education. Although most of the articles are aimed at the broad range of levels of education, the principles examined make interesting reading.

If you are privy to other materials which would be of interest to the membership, please let me know. I'll try to pass the information along in future newsletters.

AND SO IT GOES

That seems to exhaust my file of news to pass on to you. Until our next newsletter, don't forget to **get your conference registration in** and have a pleasant summer.